
From: Cody Gifford
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2013 10:02 AM
To: IB Music Class 2012-2013
Subject: In-class assignment 25 February 2013

Hit reply and write a response to the prompt. You have 10 minutes.

We have studied art music starting from the Middle Ages. This semester we have been exploring Classical era and Romantic era music. Keep these two eras in mind in particular as you complete your response to the prompt "I used to think, but now I know..."

I used to think that all classical music was the same and it was challenging to differentiate them, but now I know that they are in fact very different. I have noticed that each era seems to have a distinct texture and style. Baroque music was really to showcase talent and didn't have a very emotional tone or affection and Classical music was very elegant and balanced. In the classical era, there were very strict forms such as sonata form, fugue, etc. The composers based their own music off of these forms. Now I know that Romantic music is all about emotion. Music became more of a way to express emotions and these emotions are very easy to hear. I find it interesting that most music was programme music, which means that it was based on a story and was a way to explore the different feelings behind the story. Also, orchestras became larger and had a more full sound/texture.

Before studying each era, I couldn't tell the difference between these eras and their characteristics. Now every time I hear a piece of music I listen carefully to the instruments and try to distinguish if it is simple and balanced, or emotional.